

by financing, training, and arming terrorist organizations like Hezbollah. And, the time has come for all nations to fully cooperate with the AMIA investigation.

Too many lives have been lost. Too many families have been ripped apart. Too many have suffered.

It is time for the world to join together to move peace forward in the Middle East, to end violence against the Jewish community at-large, and to foster respect and understanding for all people throughout the world.

I believe we can start by bringing the perpetrators of the attacks on Argentina to justice. By punishing those who caused death, harm and conflict in Argentina, we will set a clear signal to the world that killing will not advance their cause.

Thanks again to Congresswoman ROSELEHTINEN for sponsoring this resolution. It is important for the Argentinean government to know that we support their efforts to bring the perpetrators of this horrific crime to justice. And again, my deepest condolences and sympathy to the people of Argentina and Israel for the grave loss of life and vast destruction caused by this attack.

HONORING ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Joseph's Catholic Church in celebrating its 100th anniversary. The congregation had its centennial celebration on Saturday, June 21, 2008.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church is located in Twain Harte, California. The origin of this community can be traced back to some of the original settlers in 1907. The area began as a small mining and logging town in the high Sierra Nevada foothills. The church was founded in 1908 with the construction of St. Joseph's Church in Tuolumne City. The church itself not only sets the tone for the present generation but is a proud symbol of the dedication of the pioneer ancestors who built it.

St. Joseph's was originally a member of Sonora's St. Patrick's Parish. Because of the distance to travel between Tuolumne City and Sonora, and the large number of worshipers, the people of northeastern Tuolumne County applied to the Chancery several times for the building of a new parish. Reverend Hugh A. Donohoe, the Bishop of Stockton, decided to go forth with the new parish. The parish in Twain Harte was formally erected and completed on June 20, 1962. The task of forming the Parish was effectively executed by the late Fr. George Lacey, who served the community for 21 years. Fr. William Ryan served the Parish for 10 years and worked to enhance and complete the Parish plant. The parish is now part of Twain Harte's All Saints Parish.

Three generations of worshipers make up the 200 parishioners, headed by Fr. John Fitzgerald and Deacon Ed Zoma. Deacon Zoma is ordained in the Chaldean Rite and can claim to be the longest serving deacon in the country. The Alter Society has now grown into the All Saints' Parish Ladies' Guild and has about sixty members.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate St. Joseph's Catholic Church on its centennial celebration. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing the congregation of St. Joseph's Catholic Church many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO RICHAEAL YOUNG ON BEING ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COL- LEGES

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege for me to honor Richael Young of Foster City, California, on being elected president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC).

At the young age of 20, Richael has already accomplished much and demonstrated tremendous leadership skills. When she was 14 years old she began attending the College of San Mateo where she, along with two other students, founded their school's chapter of the National Community College Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa. By 16, Richael was vice president of operations of this prestigious honor society and just a year later, at age 17, she was elected president. That same year, Richael was elected a student trustee of the San Mateo County Community College district, holding this leadership position for nearly 2 years.

In May of 2008, Richael ran a successful campaign for the at-large senator of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. On July 13, 2008, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges held officer elections, and I am proud to announce that Richael was elected president. Richael is not only the youngest person to ever hold this position, but she is also the first woman to do so. In this prominent role, she will be representing California's 110 community colleges and 2.6 million students.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ms. Richael Young whom I am so proud to have interning in my Washington, DC office serving the people of the 14th Congressional district. We have all benefited from her intelligence, diligence and dedication to excellence. We wish her our best as the president of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges and the contributions she will no doubt make to California and our country.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF STICKBALL HALL OF FAMER, CHARLES EDWARD BALLARD III

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Charles Edward Ballard III an outstanding son of Harlem who passed away on February 14, 2008, Valentines Day. As I speak with profound sorrow, I ascend to cele-

brate a life well lived and to remember with fondness the accomplishments of a remarkable man who, over his many years and under much adversity, fought to preserve the good-old pastime game of stickball.

The death of Charles brought immense sorrow and loss to his family and friends, and to the countless individuals associated with the legendary game of stickball. The game he fought to preserve often served to unite young people of different races and nationalities from the many diverse neighborhoods around the city of New York. The All-Star Charles Ballard was a celebrity among the many that played stickball on our city's streets, taking part in ten stickball championships.

Within the New York City stickball community, Mr. Ballard is widely considered a legend whose bat has launched more than 10,000 line drives over a 50-year career. Therefore, it was no surprise that Mr. Ballard was the first inductee into the Stickball Hall of Fame in 1973. The Hall was founded with the most modest of goals: to formally recognize the sport. The founders—all members of the Old Timers, including their manager, Carlos Diaz—picked the top players from throughout the city, including those who parlayed their street skills into professional baseball careers, like Phil Rizzuto, Joe Torre, Willie Randolph and Rusty Torres.

"Charlie" as he was affectionately known, was an inspiration and true symbol of commitment and sportsmanship to the game he truly loved and its faithful players for more than 50 years. Mr. Ballard was a shining example of selfless love for the many generations of young bucks that came to play the game before and after. He derived significant gratification teaching the sport to kids, spending many hours in the streets and parks of the community with them. He also gladly spent equal, if not more time, mentoring youth about the game of life, offering them his wisdom, compassion, and support.

Mr. Ballard was also a member of the "Greatest Generation" as a veteran of World War II. He proudly fought for his country, serving in the Navy from 1942 to 1945. In addition, he had the distinction of being one of only a few African-Americans to serve as a radio operator in the Navy. Charlie achieved so much during his lifetime that his comrades will continue to benefit from his work even as they miss his ongoing presence.

Madam Speaker, rather than mourn his passing, I hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the life of Charles Edward Ballard III by remembering that he exemplified greatness in every way.

TRIBUTE TO THE TURKISH CYPRIOT PEOPLE

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. WHITFIELD of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, the meeting of the two Cypriot leaders on March 21, May 23, and July 1, 2008 and the agreement reached by them to launch full-fledged negotiations, which will aim to find a comprehensive settlement to the long-standing Cyprus problem, have been welcomed by the international community, including the United States, the European Union,

and others. The meetings raised hopes among the international community that a mutually acceptable settlement would now be more seriously sought by the Greek Cypriot side, whose policy over the years had been to delay the start of full-fledged negotiations.

On July 20th, the Turkish Cypriots commemorate the 34th anniversary of the Turkish peace operation, which prevented the attempt by the Greek Cypriots to annex the island to Greece. Although peace prevails in Cyprus today, the social, economic, and political development of the Turkish Cypriots have been restricted for more than 3 decades.

In order to promote the spirit of goodwill generated during the recent meetings, it is my sincere hope that this positive stance demonstrated by the two Cypriot leaders will be supported by the United States government. The Turkish Cypriots have demonstrated their willingness to work collaboratively, by voting in favor of the Annan Plan, which presumed great sacrifices for the Turkish Cypriots, because nearly a quarter of their territory would have been ceded to the Greek Cypriot side, and almost a quarter of the Turkish Cypriot population would have been dislocated, some for the second, third, and even fourth time.

Despite the potential impact of the Annan Plan, 65 percent of Turkish Cypriots voted in favor of the historic referendum of April 24, 2004, while 76 percent of Greek Cypriots voted against it. The Turkish Cypriot people, in their continued commitment to achieve a just and lasting settlement that respects the political equality of these two groups on the island are still waiting for the international community to honor the promises it made to them.

Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the unwavering commitment of the Turkish Cypriot people to reunify the island, and I encourage the United States government to lend its support to lifting of the isolation that presently exists.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber yesterday. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 512, 513 and 514.

HONORING THE CITY OF TURLOCK, CALIFORNIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the city of Turlock upon their celebration of their 100th Anniversary.

In 1871, John Mitchell, a prominent land owner in Turlock, came to an agreement with the railroad. The railroad agreed to build a train depot, a switching yard and telegraph station on a portion of Mr. Mitchell's property.

In return, Mr. Mitchell gave the railroad a twenty five mile right of way passage through his vast land holdings. The land consisted of over 100,000 acres of wheat that spanned from, what is now, Ceres to Atwater and west to the San Joaquin River. It was a win-win situation for all; while the railroad was able to expand, Mr. Mitchell was able to move products.

Over the next 20 years, growth in the area was slow. It did, however, experience a great amount of financial success. During California's Golden Wheat era of the mid to late 1800s this area was shipping an extraordinary amount of wheat across the United States and around the world. Turlock was booming, but it did not last long. With the over planting of crops, the poor farming practices, and depleted soil the production of wheat fell drastically. The Golden Wheat era was over by 1890. It only took 3 years for Turlock to fade away, and in 1893 John Mitchell, the founder of Turlock, passed away. Mr. Mitchell had brought life to Turlock; he was responsible for bringing the railroad and he financed many farmers and businesses. With a nationwide economic collapse on the horizon, Turlock faced two more problems; water and fire. The farmers in Turlock desperately needed an irrigation system to keep their crops going, and then a massive fire destroyed downtown Turlock.

Fortunately, luck changed for this small farming town. In 1901, irrigation was funded. Small farmers were back in business, and Turlock began to thrive again. John Mitchell's heirs hired a land promoter and sold his vast holdings into small farming lots. People began to flock to Turlock. By 1907, Turlock was experiencing record breaking activity in commercial and residential construction. The push for incorporation began to take hold. A special election was held on January 21, 1908 and Turlock was incorporated with about 1800 residents. A board of trustees, a treasurer, a clerk and a marshal were all elected into office. Today Turlock has a population of over 69,000 and is home to California State University, Stanislaus.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the city of Turlock on 100 years. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Turlock many years of continued growth and success.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF SHIRLEY J. PIGOTT, CHIEF OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIVISION IN THE 96TH AIR BASE WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Shirley Pigott on her retirement as the Chief of the Community Relations Division at the 96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs Office, Eglin Air Force Base.

Mrs. Shirley Pigott has had many accomplishments in her 31 years of civil service work

for the military. She served as Deputy Director and Chief of the Community Relations Division in the Air Armament Center Office of Public Affairs. She was an Advisory Board member of the Okaloosa County Cherokee Elementary School, Eglin Air Force Base Officers' Club, and Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce.

She was a Military Affairs Committee Advisory Board member of the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, the Niceville/Valparaiso Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Destin Area Chamber of Commerce. Shirley was a member of the Okaloosa County Veterans' Memorial committee, the American Heart Association Ball Committee, and the Air Force Association. She was also a member of the Board of Directors on the Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women.

Furthermore, Shirley served her community by being the foremost Eglin authority on local civic and opinion leaders. She was a helpful figure during President Bush's visit to Eglin. Beyond her community, Shirley worked with the White House staff preparing guest lists.

Shirley attended Okaloosa-Walton College and received 2 years of college credit in Management. She has taken 182 hours of the Air Force College of Installation Sustainment and Management, A3, classes and numerous other Air Force classes on a variety of topics. Shirley took 1 year of Bible classes by correspondence from Rhema Bible Institute in Tulsa, OK. She continued her education by taking Mandatory Annual International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card, IMPAC, Card refresher classes with certificates.

Shirley Pigott has received a long list of important certificates and awards. They include: Air Force Systems Command Public Affairs Civilian of the Year Award, 1987; The Military Order of the World Wars Certificate for supporting the Massing of the Colors ceremonies, 1990-2006; Robert L.F. Sikes "Patriotism Award" from the Crestview Chamber, 1993; Air Force Enlisted Foundation Certificate for supporting the Bob Hope Birthday and Anniversary celebration, 1996; Air Force Development Test Center Best Program, ComRel Award, 1997; Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce President's Award for Outstanding Assistance to the Chamber and the Armed Forces, 1999; Certificate of Appreciation for the Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs Achievement Awards Second Place—Director's Excellence Award, Special Achievement, 2000; Certificate of Appreciation for Exemplary Civilian Service in supporting President George W. Bush's visit, 2002; Notable Achievement Award for outstanding leadership and support for the 2004 Open House and Air Show, 2004; Air Armament Center Staff Civilian, Cat IV, of the Quarter, 2005; Nominee for the First Northwest Florida ATHENA Awards Program, 2006; and, Okaloosa County Women's Hall of Fame Nominee, Second Annual Northwest Florida ATHENA Awards Program Recipient, Air Armament Center Recognition Ceremony for Community Support, 2007.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate Shirley Pigott on her retirement and wish her many more years of success and happiness